

Appl. No : 10/081,027
Filed : February 21, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims as listed below will replace all prior listings and presentations of claims in the above-identified application.

1. – 23. (CANCELED)

24. (NEW) A method of nonverbal communication between a patient and a caregiver, the method comprising:

removably securing a laser to an article worn by the patient, the laser being coupled to a power supply and an on/off switch;

providing a plurality of charts at a location remote from, but within view of the patient, each chart comprising a plurality of both alphanumeric and graphical images permanently printed thereon, wherein the charts do not require electrical power to retain the images, wherein the graphical images are selected to represent at least one concept selected from the group consisting of: pain, discomfort, emotion, personal grooming requests and information relating to a medical condition of the patient, wherein the images are grouped according to said concept, and wherein a plurality of images indicating related concepts are located adjacent one another on the chart;

placing the charts within view of both the patient and the caregiver;

activating the laser by operating the switch;

selecting a first chart and a first image and aiming a laser beam emitted from said laser at the first image on the first chart, thereby causing a visible laser image to impinge on the chart on or adjacent to the first image;

selecting a second image on the first chart and aiming the laser beam at the second image, thereby causing a visible laser image to impinge on the chart on or adjacent to the second image;

allowing the caregiver to view the chart, the first image and the second image illuminated by the patient.

25. (NEW) The method of Claim 24, wherein a sequence of selecting the first image and the second image facilitates communication of a concept to the caregiver.

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26. (NEW) The method of Claim 25, wherein the first image represents a portion of the patient's body, and wherein the second image represents an action to be performed on the portion of the patient's body represented by the first image.

27. (NEW) The method of Claim 26, wherein the first image represents a patient's nose, and the second image represents a request for the caregiver to scratch the patient's nose.

28. (NEW) The method of Claim 24, further comprising selecting a second chart, and selecting a third image on the second chart.

29. (NEW) The method of Claim 24, wherein each graphical image comprises a textual label or descriptor.

30. (NEW) The method of Claim 24, further comprising varying an intensity of the laser beam with a dimmer.